

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A safety system for power equipment comprising:
 - a machine having a lower tool and an upper tool, said lower tool being
 - 5 electrically isolated from said upper tool;
 - a safety controller coupled to said lower tool;
 - a pair of electrically conductive gloves that are coupled to said safety controller, said electrically conductive gloves to be worn by an operator of said power equipment; and
 - 10 electrically conductive stock to be held with said pair of electrically conductive gloves, said safety controller allowing said machine to operate when said electrically conductive stock contacts said lower tool.
2. The safety system according to claim 1, wherein said safety controller
- 15 further comprises a safety sensor to detect said upper tool contacting said electrically conductive gloves or stock, said safety sensor pausing operation of said machine after said detection.
3. The safety system according to claim 2, wherein said safety controller
- 20 further comprises a processing sensor, said processing sensor enabling continued operation of said machine after said pausing if said electrically conductive gloves are released from said electrically conductive stock and said processing sensor disabling operation of said machine after said pausing if said electrically
- 25 said electrically conductive gloves remain in contact with said electrically conductive stock or if said electrically conductive gloves contact said machine or said electrically conductive stock after said continued operation.

4. The safety system according to claim 1, wherein said safety controller further comprises a first timing sensor, said first timing sensor disabling operation of said machine when there is a delay between holding said electrically conductive stock with one of said pair of electrically conductive gloves and
5 holding said electrically conductive stock with the other of said pair of electrically conductive gloves.

5. The safety system according to claim 1, wherein said safety controller further comprises a second timing sensor, said second timing sensor varying the
10 length of operation of said upper tool.

6. The safety system according to claim 1, further including a secondary safety station coupled to said safety controller, said secondary safety station allowing said machine to operate when one of said pair of electrically conductive
15 gloves contacts said secondary safety station while the other of said pair of safety gloves holds said electrically conductive stock and said electrically conductive stock contacts said lower tool.

7. The safety system according to claim 6, wherein said safety controller
20 further comprises a first timing sensor, said first timing sensor disabling operation of said machine when there is a delay between holding said electrically conductive stock with one of said pair of electrically conductive gloves and contacting said secondary safety station with the other of said pair of electrically conductive gloves.

8. A method for controlling the safety of power equipment, comprising the steps of:

electrically isolating a lower tool of a machine from an upper tool of said machine;

5 providing a safety controller coupled to said lower tool;

providing a pair of electrically conductive gloves coupled to said safety controller, said electrically conductive gloves to be worn by an operator of said power equipment;

10 holding electrically conductive stock with said pair of electrically conductive gloves; and

allowing said machine to operate when said electrically conductive stock contacts said lower tool.

9. The method according to claim 8, further including the steps of:

15 detecting with a safety sensor when said upper tool contacts said electrically conductive gloves or stock; and

pausing operation of said machine after said detection step.

10. The method according to claim 9, further including the steps of:

20 enabling continued operation of said machine after said pausing step if said electrically conductive gloves are released from said electrically conductive stock;

disabling operation of said machine after said pausing step if said electrically conductive gloves remain in contact with said electrically conductive stock or if said electrically conductive gloves contact said machine or said
25 electrically conductive stock after said continued operation step.

11. The method according to claim 8, further including the step of providing a first timing sensor, said first timing sensor disabling operation of said machine when there is a delay between holding said electrically conductive stock with one of said pair of electrically conductive gloves and holding said
5 electrically conductive stock with the other of said pair of electrically conductive gloves.

12. The method according to claim 8, further including the step of providing a second timing sensor, said second timing sensor varying the length of
10 operation of said upper tool.

13. The method according to claim 8, wherein the electrically conductive stock can be held with one of said pair of electrically conductive gloves if the other of said pair of electrically conductive gloves is contacting a secondary
15 safety station, said secondary safety station coupled to said safety controller.

14. The method according to claim 13, further including the step of providing a first timing sensor, said first timing sensor disabling operation of said
20 machine when there is a delay between holding said electrically conductive stock with one of said pair of electrically conductive gloves and contacting said secondary safety station with the other of said pair of electrically conductive gloves.